Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-47. (Canceled)

48. (New) Coated particles suitable for use in particle-mediated nucleic acid immunisation, which particles comprise core carrier particles coated with (1) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding an antigen; and (2) an adjuvant which is effective to enhance at least one component of an immune response elicited against the antigen, wherein the adjuvant is present in said composition in a form other than DNA.

49. (New) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is present in a vector construct.

50. (New) The coated particles of claim 49, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacterial, parasite or fungal pathogen.

51. (New) The coated particles of claim 50, wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of a hepatitis B virus (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and an influenza virus.

52. (New) The coated particles of claim 50, wherein the antigen is a circumsporozoite (CS) antigen from a malarial parasite.

53. (New) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the antigen is a tumor-specific antigen or an antigen associated with an autoimmune disease.

54. (New) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant is present in the composition in the form of a lipid.

55. (New) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant comprises monophosphoryl lipid A.

56. (New) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant is at least partially soluble in ethanol.

57. (New) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant is an immune shift adjuvant which is effective to enhance the T helper 1 (Th 1) component of an immune response elicited against the antigen in an individual receiving said particles.

58. (New) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein said core carrier particles are tungsten or gold particles.

59. (New) The coated particles of claim 58, wherein the gold particles have a nominal size of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm.

60. (New) A method for eliciting an immune response against a selected antigen in an individual, said method comprising co-administering to the individual (1) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding an antigen; and (2) an adjuvant which is effective to enhance at least one component of an immune response elicited against the antigen, wherein the adjuvant is present in said composition in a form other than DNA, wherein the adjuvant is delivered directly into cells present at a target site in the individual in an amount sufficient to bring about said immune response.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid and adjuvant are administered in (a) a single composition; or (b) separate compositions.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is delivered prior to, subsequent to, or concurrently with, the nucleic acid.

63. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid molecule and the adjuvant are coated onto core carrier particles.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the nucleic acid molecule and/or the adjuvant is/are delivered using a particle-mediated delivery technique.

65. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is present in a vector construct.

66. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacterial, parasite or fungal pathogen.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of a hepatitis B virus (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and an influenza virus.

68. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the antigen is a circumsporozoite (CS) antigen from a malarial parasite.

69. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the antigen is a tumor-specific antigen or an antigen associated with an autoimmune disease.

70. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is present in the composition in the form of a lipid.

71. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant comprises monophosphoryl lipid A.

72. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is at least partially soluble in ethanol.

73. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is an immune shift adjuvant which is effective to enhance the T helper 1 (Th 1) component of an immune response elicited against the antigen in an individual receiving said particles.

74. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein said core carrier particles are tungsten or gold particles.

75. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the gold particles have a nominal size of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm.

76. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the target site is epidermal tissue.

77. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the coated particles of claim 48.